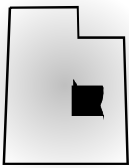


County Trends



Emery

September 2005

A Local Economic Perspective

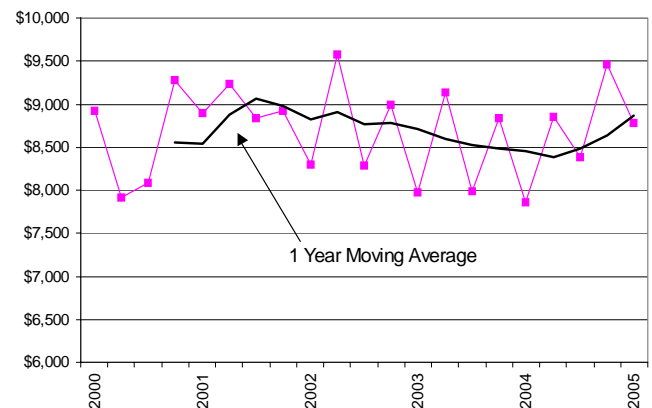
Mining Jobs Up; Service Industries Contract

After enjoying the spoils of annexing Grand County's portion of Green River City, Emery County's economic engine sputtered in the first quarter of 2005. Positive gains in the coal mining industry were unable to offset losses in almost every other industry, pushing the county's job growth rate to a sleepy 1.0 percent. However, the county's other economic indicators were more positive. Average quarterly wages showed continued upward mobility which, in turn, helped gross taxable sales post a strong 17.3-percent gain.

A Turbulent County Labor Market

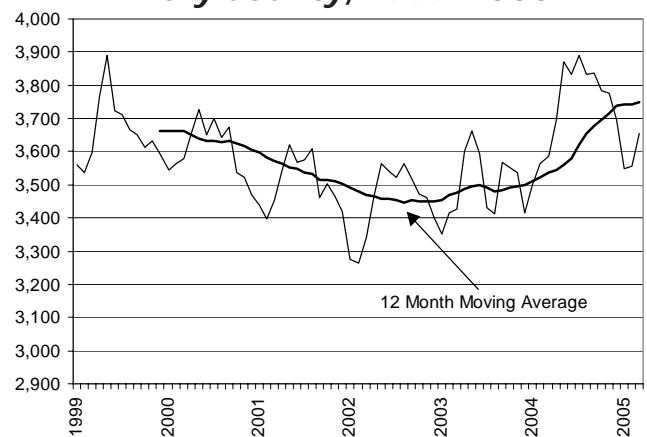
Emery County's 1.0 percent year-over job growth in the first quarter of 2005 belies a much more turbulent local labor market. Nearly every industry saw employment declines over last year, with the one notable exception being the mining industry. In the past twelve months revived coal mining operations added a net of 180 jobs. These jobs are welcomed in the county and in the region as they pay higher wages. However, even the increased demand for goods and services that these additional wages create -- visible in the sales tax data -- didn't shore up employment in other industries.

Average Quarterly Wages in Emery County, 2000-2005



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

Monthly Nonfarm Employment in Emery County, 1999-2005



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.



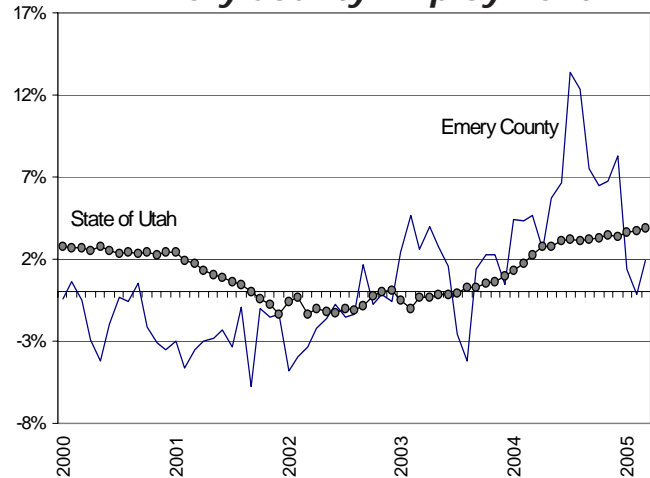


To the Point

As forecasted last year, job growth in Emery County slowed dramatically in the first quarter of 2005. However, this is not necessarily cause for alarm.

With natural gas prices jumping higher, utilities are gaining a greater appreciation for coal-fired plants. This may bode well for the county, which produced roughly one quarter of the state's coal in 2004.

Year-Over Change in Emery County Employment



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

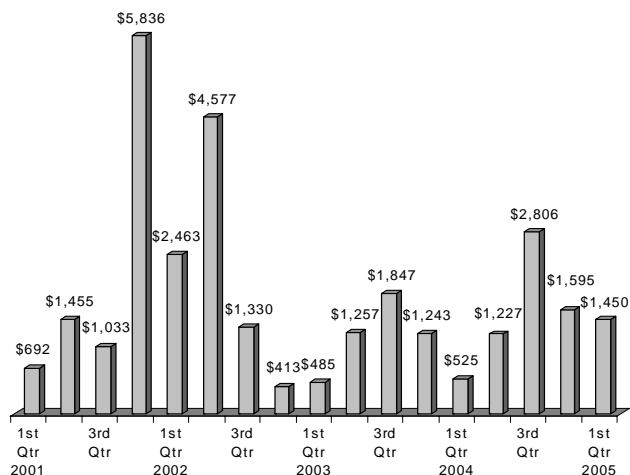
Besides the growth in mining, the county's other goods-producing industries -- construction and manufacturing -- both faltered in the quarter. In the past year, the construction industry has shed 60 jobs, or a roughly 23-percent decline. Manufacturing also posted jobs declines in the period, cutting roughly a quarter of all jobs in the industry.

On the service industries side of the economy, the story was much the same. Overall the service-producing industries saw employment decline 2.8 percent. However, the largest declines were felt in local government -- particularly in public education and nursing homes -- other services, professional and business services, and accommodations and food services. Gains in transportation and utilities -- amidst an increase in coal mining activity -- were small.

Nonresidential Projects Boosts Weak Construction Market

Emery County's permit officials were busy in the first quarter of 2005, as total new construction valuations rose to \$1.4 million. With that said, the numbers themselves reveal that construction activity in the county was going in two different directions. Nonresidential construction soared, with a \$702,000 project in Green River providing most of the increase. Residential permits, on the other hand, were down slightly

Emery County Total Construction Permit Valuation



(Thousands of dollars)

Source: Utah Bureau of Economic & Business Research.

from last year and the valuation of those permits was off sharply. Compared with the first quarter of 2004, new residential permit valuation declined 38 percent. Remodeling and additions activity jumped 47.1 percent, adding to the county's total construction valuation for the quarter.

Capital Investment Fuels Taxable Sales

Cash registers throughout the county were busy in the twelve months between the first quarter of 2004 and 2005. Year-over, gross taxable sales grew 17.3 percent, an increase of \$4.3 million. The retail sector added roughly \$1 million over the last year, helped by solid gains in general merchandise and food stores purchases -- perhaps the result of an increase in wages paid in the county. Increased mining activity fired taxable business investment purchases of mining and construction capital goods. Service industries sales also grew, though most of the sector's gain came in the form of increased automotive and machinery repairs.

Michael Hanni, Regional/Labor Economist
mhanni@utah.gov / (801) 526-9403



Quick Facts

July 2005

Unemployment Rate

Emery County (unadj)	6.1%
Utah	4.7%
U.S.	5.0%

March 2005 Change from Previous Year

Job Growth

Emery County	1.9%
Utah	3.9%
U.S.	1.7%

1st Qtr 2005 Change from Previous Year

Construction Values

Emery County	176.1%
--------------	--------

Sales

Emery County	17.3%
--------------	-------

Source: Utah Dept of Workforce Services,
Bureau of Labor Statistics,
Utah Tax Commission,
Bureau of Econ & Business Research.

For more economic information about Emery County see:
<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/County.asp>

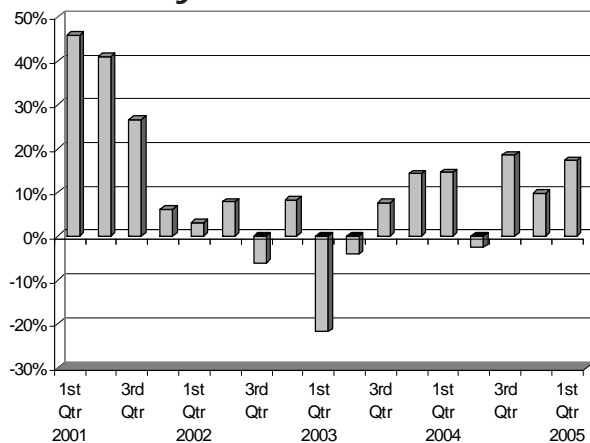
State of Utah

Utah Department of Workforce Services

140 East 300 South
PO Box 45249
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0249

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Year-Over Change in Emery County Gross Taxable Sales



Source: Utah Tax Commission.

The mission of the Utah Department of Workforce Services is to provide quality, accessible, and comprehensive employment-related and supportive services responsive to the needs of employers, job seekers, and the community.



03-13EE-0905

Equal Opportunity Employment Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Call (801) 526-9240. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call the state relay at 1-800-346-4128

What's Up? 4

- The Emery County Economic Development Council is formulating plans for the second annual Castle Valley Economic Summit. The summit will be held this year on Oct. 6 and 7. The summit will be held in conjunction with the Carbon County Economic Development Council with both groups working towards the success of the summit. The councils encourage business owners and employees to attend the summit for the latest in economic development information.

For more economic events, see:

<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/eastern/emery/emeryee.pdf>

